

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a compartment containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the compartment comprising a plurality of inlet apertures for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the compartment and a plurality of outlet apertures for a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein at least a proportion of the inlet apertures are out of alignment with the outlet apertures such that at least a proportion of the aqueous medium entering the compartment through the inlet apertures is forced to circulate within the compartment before exiting the compartment through the outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet apertures are arranged around and ~~substantially~~ completely surround the periphery of the compartment.

Claim 2 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the inlet apertures are equi-spaced around the compartment periphery.

Claim 3 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the outlet apertures are located towards a centre of the compartment relative to the inlet apertures.

Claim 4 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the outlet apertures are equi-spaced around the centre of the compartment.

Claim 5 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 4 comprising 3 to 10 inlet apertures.

Claim 6 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 5 comprising 4 inlet apertures.

Claim 7 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 comprising 3 to 10 outlet apertures.

Claim 8 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 7 comprising 5 outlet apertures.

Claim 9 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 comprising unequal numbers of inlet apertures and outlet apertures.

Claim 10 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the number of inlet apertures and outlet apertures are given by the formula:

$$X_o = X_i + C$$

where

X_i = the number of inlet apertures

X_o = the number of outlet apertures

C = the set of integers not including 0 or nX_i

n = any integer.

Claim 11 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 8 comprising equal numbers of inlet apertures and outlet apertures.

Claim 12 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the inlet apertures are provided in an outer member of the cartridge and the outlet apertures are provided in an inner member of the cartridge.

Claim 13 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the inner member comprises a discharge spout communicating with the outlet apertures.

Claim 14 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

Claim 15 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 14 wherein the flow of aqueous medium through the inlet apertures into the compartment is directed radially inwards towards a centre of the cartridge.

Claim 16 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients are soluble in the aqueous medium.

Claim 17 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a liquid chocolate or coffee ingredient.

Claim 18 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 17 wherein the one or more beverage ingredients is a concentrated liquid or gel.

Claim 19 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 18 wherein the liquid beverage ingredient has a viscosity of between 70 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 20 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the liquid beverage ingredient has a viscosity of between 1700 and 3900mPa at ambient temperature.

Claim 21 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from polypropylene.

Claim 22 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 21 wherein the outer member and/or inner member is formed by injection moulding.

Claim 23 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 22 wherein the outer member and/or inner member are formed from a biodegradable polymer.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a compartment containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the compartment comprising a plurality of inlet apertures for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the compartment and a plurality of outlet apertures for a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein at least a proportion of the inlet apertures are out of alignment with the outlet apertures such that at least a proportion of the aqueous medium entering the compartment through the inlet apertures is forced to circulate within the compartment before exiting the compartment through the outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet apertures are arranged around the periphery of the compartment, the inlet apertures are equi-spaced around the compartment periphery, the outlet apertures are located towards a centre of the compartment relative to the inlet apertures, the outlet apertures are equi-spaced around the centre of the compartment, having 5 outlet apertures, equal numbers of inlet apertures and outlet apertures, and the inlet apertures are provided in an outer member of the cartridge and the outlet apertures are provided in an inner member of the cartridge.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 24 wherein the inner member comprises a discharge spout communicating with the outlet apertures.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 25 wherein the cartridge is disc-shaped.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 26 wherein the flow of aqueous medium through the inlet apertures into the compartment is directed radially inwards towards a centre of the cartridge.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a compartment containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the compartment comprising a plurality of inlet apertures for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the compartment and a plurality of outlet apertures for a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein at least a proportion of the inlet apertures are out of alignment with the outlet apertures such that at least a proportion of the aqueous medium entering the compartment through the inlet apertures is forced to circulate within the compartment before exiting the compartment through the outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet apertures are arranged around the periphery of the compartment and surround ~~as claimed in claim 1 wherein~~ a centrally located discharge spout is positioned within the compartment.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 28 wherein the inlet apertures are orientated toward the discharge spout.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 29 wherein a filter is positioned in a flow path extending between the compartment and the discharge spout.

Claim 31 (New): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, the cartridge comprising a compartment containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the compartment comprising a plurality of inlet apertures for the introduction of an aqueous medium into the compartment and a plurality of outlet apertures for a beverage produced from the one or more beverage ingredients, wherein at least a proportion of

the inlet apertures are out of alignment with the outlet apertures such that at least a proportion of the aqueous medium entering the compartment through the inlet apertures is forced to circulate within the compartment before exiting the compartment through the outlet apertures, characterised in that the inlet apertures are arranged around the periphery of the compartment and substantially surround a centrally located discharge spout positioned within the compartment and the inlet apertures are orientated toward the discharge spout.